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ABSTRACT

This guide is designed specifically as a resource for classroom teachers, librarians, or consultants who are concerned with helping children develop an understanding and an ease with people who are different, especially people with disabilities. The book includes materials to be used in sensitivity and awareness discussion sessions based on 12 Turtle Books, a series of storybooks written about children with disabilities. Activities for each session fit within an hour and include basic facts about some of the more common disabilities students who will be included in regular classrooms may have. The material is designed to provide an opportunity for students to discuss feelings and to ask and answer questions about disabilities and the circumstances causing various disabilities (The Person Comes First, What Are Disabilities, Fair and Square, How about a Hug, When I Grow Up). Each session explores the similarities between the child with the disability and children who do not have disabilities and has suggestions for activities for kindergartners, elementary children, and middle school children to reinforce the learning that has taken place. Twelve take-home activity sheets are also included. General background information is provided that explains different types of disabilities, along with hints for making discussions more effective. The guide concludes with seven additional stories and a list of resource organizations. (CR)

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